

DEPARTMENT OF PHYSICS, IIT MADRAS

PH5816: PS01

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1. **Scale dependence of motion in 1d.** Consider an experimental system, where a spherical particle of radius L is moving in a fluid of viscosity η under the influence of a 1d potential: $U(x) = U_0 x^n$. Here U_0 is a constant. The position x of the particle $x(t)$ is found to follow $x^5 \propto t$ in the experiment, with t as time elapsed. What are the possible values that n can take? Assume: $m\ddot{x} = -\gamma\dot{x} - \partial U/\partial x$. Here $\gamma = 6\pi\eta L$.

2. **Gauss divergence theorem.** Consider a scalar field U of the following form in three-dimensions (here $r^2 = x^2 + y^2 + z^2$ and U_0 is a constant):

$$U(r) = U_0 \frac{1}{r}. \quad (1)$$

- (a) Draw the equipotential curves (or contour lines) of the field U at a given value of $z = z_0$.
- (b) Find a corresponding vector field $\vec{F} = -\vec{\nabla}U$ and compute its divergence.
- (c) Check the validity of Gauss's divergence theorem by computing the flux of the vector field \vec{F} over the surface of a sphere of radius b centered at the origin.

3. **Curl, gradient, divergence, and Laplacian.**

- (a) Explain the physical interpretation(s) of:
 - i. gradient of a scalar field
 - ii. divergence of a vector field
 - iii. curl of a vector field
- (b) The Green's function H of Laplace equation satisfies: $\nabla^2 H = -\delta(\vec{r})$. Here, $\delta(\vec{r})$ is the Dirac delta function. Find H for the following boundary condition:
 - i. H vanishes at infinity,
 - ii. H vanishes both at $z = 0$ and at infinity.
- (c) Show that if the curl and divergence of a vector field is zero, then its Laplacian is zero as well.

4. **Dimensionless numbers of NSE.** Newton's equation for a body of mass m is: $m \frac{d\vec{v}}{dt}$ = sum of all forces. Show that for a fluid element of volume $\Delta\mathcal{V}$, the Newton's equation becomes:

$$\rho \left[\frac{\partial \vec{v}}{\partial t} + (\vec{v} \cdot \nabla) \vec{v} \right] = \eta \nabla^2 \vec{v} - \nabla p + \rho \vec{g} \quad (2)$$

The above is the NSE (Navier-Stokes equations). To obtain it, you need to show that:

- (a) Convective derivative (also called material or total derivative) is the rate of change of of a quantity belonging to certain moving element.

$$\frac{d}{dt} = \left(\frac{\partial}{\partial t} + \vec{v} \cdot \vec{\nabla} \right) \quad (3)$$

- (b) The fluid stress σ_{ij} is the force per unit area in the i th direction on a surface whose normal is pointing in the j th direction. σ_{ij} is also called the Cauchy stress. Show that the net force exerted by fluid on a fluid element of volume $\Delta\mathcal{V}$ is: $\Delta\mathcal{V} [\nabla_i \sigma_{ij} + f_i^b]$. Here, the f_i^b is the i th component of body force on the fluid. For example, due to gravity: $f_i^b = \rho g_i$

- (c) Show that the conservation of angular momentum implies that the Cauchy stress tensor is symmetric: $\sigma_{ij} = \sigma_{ji}$.

- (d) The Cauchy stress in a fluid is written as $\sigma_{ij} = -p\delta_{ij} + \eta(\nabla_i v_j + \nabla_j v_i)$ for Newtonian fluids. Use the above to obtain the Eq.(2). Non-dimensionlise the Eq.(2) to obtain:

$$\frac{\partial v_i^*}{\partial t^*} + (v_j^* \nabla_j^*) v_i^* = \frac{\nabla^2 v_i^* - \nabla_i p^*}{\text{Re}} + \frac{1}{\text{Fn}} \hat{g}_i \quad (4)$$

Here, $r^* = r/L$, $\nabla^* = L\nabla$, $\vec{v}^* = \vec{v}/V$, $t^* = t/(L/V)$, $p^* = pL/(\eta V)$, $\hat{g}_i = g_i/|\vec{g}|$.

- (e) Show that the dimensionless numbers are:

$$\text{Reynolds number } \text{Re} = \frac{\rho V L}{\eta}, \quad \text{Froude number } \text{Fn} = \frac{V^2}{L|g|} \quad (5)$$

- (f) **The continuity equation.** Using the continuity equation, for an incompressible fluid (whose mass density ρ is constant everywhere and time-independent), show that the velocity field satisfies:

$$\vec{\nabla} \cdot \vec{v} = 0. \quad (6)$$

The above is referred to as incompressibility. Describe the conditions under which a flow can be treated as incompressible.

5. **Ratio of inertial and viscous frictions.** Consider a spherical object of size L moving with speed V in a fluid of viscosity η and density ρ .

(a) There are two types of friction (or drag) that the body experiences. Argue that

i. Inertial drag is proportional to $\rho V^2 L^2$

ii. Viscous drag is proportional to $\eta L V$

(b) The Reynolds number Re is defined as:

$$\text{Re} = \frac{\text{inertial drag}}{\text{viscous drag}} = \frac{\rho V^2 L^2}{\eta L V} = \frac{\rho V L}{\eta} = \frac{V L}{\nu} \quad (7)$$

Some authors define kinematic viscosity as $\nu = \eta/\rho$. Estimate the Reynolds number for the following swimmers moving at one body length per second in water: (i) humans, (ii) microorganisms, (iii) fish, and (iv) blue whale.

6. **Coasting distance.** The coasting distance d is defined as the distance covered by a body when it stops swimming. Calculate the coasting distance per body length, d/L , for (i) a human and (ii) a microorganism swimming in water at a speed of one body length per second. Here, L is the typical size of the body and d is the coasting distance.